

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/617,231

Applicant(s)

SOUTHALL ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Hadi Akhavannik

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/5/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 8-13, 17-23 and 25-30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 0001 of the specification as follows:

This application contains subject matter that is related to the subject matter described in US patent application serial number 10/461,699, filed June 13, 2003, (Attorney Docket No. SAR/14885) entitled "Vehicular Vision System" (Now US Patent number 7,263,209), which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please amend paragraph 0030 of the specification as follows:

Figures 1, 2, and 3 illustrate and explain how a vehicle vision system 102 is implemented and used to produce image intensity data, a depth map, initial boundary information, and system calibration parameters. The vehicle vision system 102 is related to systems that are known to those who are skilled in the applicable arts. United States Patent Application Serial Number 10/461,699 (attorney docket number SAR 14885), entitled "Vehicular Vision System" (Now US Patent number 7,263,209), by Theodore Armand Camus et al., filed on June 13, 2003, which is hereby incorporated by reference, describes one such system that benefits from the invention described herein. That patent application provides additional processing details that may be useful in understanding the production of image intensity data, the depth map, initial boundary information, and system calibration parameters. However, numerous other systems can provide some or all of that information.-

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The independent claims disclose a way for searching for the top of a target in the image intensity data by locating area that meet predetermined percentages depth measurements and identifying the top of the target.

The above features, as explicitly recited, and in combination with the other elements of the claim are neither disclosed nor suggested by the nearest prior art of the record.

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Nearest Prior art Covell discloses many aspects of the independent claim but does not disclose the feature above.

Similar defects are found in Parker, Bick et al., Doi et al, Stein et al, and Narayanan et al.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hadi Akhavannik whose telephone number is 571-272-8622. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh M. Mehta can be reached on (571)272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HA
9/17/07


BHAVESH M MEHTA
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600